

5 DEC 1963

Honorable Carl Vinson  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Vinson:

Enclosed is a news ticker item which Mr. McCone thought would be of considerable interest to you. In addition, the Director has stated his desire to discuss this with you at some future time as being representative of a very serious type of problem.

Sincerely,

cc: [unclear]  
John S. Warner  
Legislative Counsel

Enclosure

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Addressee

1 - Leg. Counsel subject - [unclear]

1 - Leg. Counsel chrono

OGC/LC/JW:jmd (5 Dec 63)

3170

(200)

CHARLOTTE, N.C., DEC. 4 (AP) - DR. RALPH E. LAPP, APPHYSICIST WHO WORKED ON THE WARTIME MANHATTAN PROJECT, SAID TODAY SATELLITES ARE PROVIDING EXCELLENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF RUSSIAN MISSILE INSTALLATIONS.

DR. LAPP, SPEAKING AT UQUEENS COLLEGE, SAID THAT THE INFORMATION GATHERED BY HIGH-POWERED CAMERAS IN OUR SATELLITES SHOULD BE REVEALED TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

DR. LAPP SAID SATELLITES HAD "ENORMOUS IMPLICATIONS" FOR SOVIET MILITARY STRATEGY.

"THEIR WHOLE STRATEGY HAS BEEN BASED ON HAVING A WALLED COUNTRY," HE SAID. "NOW TECHNOLOGY IS OPENING UP THE SOVIET UNION. THEY HAVE TO BEHAVE AS IF THEY WERE AN OPEN COUNTRY."

DR. LAPP WORKED DURING WORLD WAR II ON THE TOP-SECRET MANHATTAN PROJECT WHICH DEVELOPED THE ATOMIC BOMB. HE IS NOW WITH A WASHINGTON CONSULTING FIRM.

THE CAMERAS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS PUT IN VRBIT, LAPP SAID, PHOTOGRAPH 70-MILE WIDE STRIPS OF LAND. THE EXPOSED FILM PASSES INTO CAPSULES THAT ARE PARACHUTED BACK TO EARTH.

THE LATEST MODEL SATELLITE, HE SAID, CARRIES SIX FILM CAPSULES, EACH ABOUT THE SIZE OF A B

THE CAMERAS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS PUT IN ORBIT, LAPP SAID, PHOTOGRAPH 70-MILE WIDE STRIPS OF LAND. THE EXPOSED FILM PASSES INTO CAPSULES THAT ARE PARACHUTED BACK TO EARTH.

THE LATEST MODEL SATELLITE, HE SAID, CARRIES SIX FILM CAPSULES, EACH ABOUT THE SIZE OF A BUSHEL BASKET.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS, WHILE NOT AS DETAILED AS THOSE ONCE TAKEN BY CAMERAS IN U-W AIRPLANES, WLOW THE UNITED STATES TO MAKE FAIRLY ACCURATE ASSESSMENTS OF SOVIET MISSILE POTENTIAL, ACCORDING TO DR. LAPP.

MG1134PES